# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2745
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
ERADICATION OF T.B.
RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether India have maximum percentage of TB cases as compared to that of other Asian countries;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the success even after taking several steps to eradicate this disease from the country;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to launch a fresh plan in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Though India has the largest number of TB cases, in so far as TB cases as percentage of population goes, the incidence of TB is higher in many other Asian countries such as Indonesia, Pakistan, etc.

(c) The National TB Control Programme was reviewed in 1992 and it was found that the success rate of treatment was low primarily due to :-

1. Less budgetary provision for T.B.
2. Lack of Infrastructure
3. Emphasis on X-ray for diagnosis.
4. Shortage of anti-TB drugs.
5. Multiple drug regimen.

(d) & (e) To achieve a cure rate of 85%, a Revised National TB Control Programme was launched in March, 1997.This programme is based on the Directly Observed Treatment - Short Course Strategy.Till date 260 million population has been covered under this programme. It is envisaged to cover 500 million population by the year 2002. The salient features of this programme are:

1. Diagnosis, primarily by sputum microscopy.
2. Regular and uninterrupted supply of good quality anti-TB drugs.
3. Direct observation of treatment by an individual who is accessible and acceptable to the patients and accountable to the health system.
4. Systematic monitoring and accountability.

This programme has so far achieved a cure rate of over 80% as compared to less than 40% under the earlier programme.